

DALTON-IN-FURNESS  
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1918.



Dalton-in-Furness :

T. C. HOSKINS, Printer and Stationer.

1919.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29147633>

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT, 1918.

To the Chairman and Members of the Dalton-in-Furness Urban  
District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my report of the health and sanitary condition of your District during the past year, and I am again requested by a circular from the Local Government Board to be as brief as the circumstances will permit.

**INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT**—Your Inspector has been called upon to perform a variety of duties outside his ordinary work, but in spite of this, I think I can assure you that the District has been kept under careful supervision, as his reports to the monthly meetings of the Health Committee abundantly prove.

**WATER SUPPLY**—There have been no complaints of the quality of the water supplied, and on account of the unprecedentedly heavy rainfall there has never been any shortage in the quantity. There are still too many dwellings outside the radius of the Council's mains which are inadequately supplied, and now that we may hope that the war is at an end, I trust the Council will give their best attention to remedying the defects.

**NEW STREETS**—The work of street making has of necessity been in abeyance for the last four years, but we may hope that those streets which have not been taken over will receive attention

**SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE**—I think I may safely say that the sewers and drains have received careful attention, but on account of the abnormally high rainfall, less artificial flushing has been needed than in former years.

**LINDAL OUTFALL SEWER**—I am glad to think that in the near future we shall get rid of the complaints which have been made by a neighbouring Authority as to the

nuisance which arises from the sewage discharged from the tanks which receive the Lindal sewers. There is no doubt that the effluent was insufficiently purified, but with the acquisition of 1000 square yards of additional land, the method of purification will be brought up to modern requirements. I am assured by your Surveyor that the work of extension will be taken in hand in the near future.

MARTON OUTFALL—Through the abandonment of mines which were worked by the Lindal Mining Co., the level which received the outfall from the tanks got into such a condition as to give cause for considerable anxiety, and I fear it may shortly be the duty of the Council to provide some better method of disposal.

IRELETH SEWER EXTENSION—On account of the great scarcity of labour and the very high price of material, this work has suffered another postponement, and it is likely that some time may elapse before it is possible to put the work in hand.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES—There are nine registered slaughter houses in your District, which have been the subject of, at least, weekly inspections, and every care has been taken to secure to the public a wholesome meat supply; nevertheless, the condition of most of the buildings is either structurally, or as regards position, very bad, and the Council should give attention to the question of the provision of a public abattoir.

COWSHEDS—The Inspector's Report shows that there has been no improvement in the condition of the Cowsheds, nor can we expect to effect any great changes under the existing vague state of the law. I am very much afraid that it is a case of vested interest standing in the way, otherwise the present disgraceful condition of many of the sheds from which our milk supply is produced would not be permitted to continue.

In this connection it may be stated that in July last, on account of the farmers refusing to accept the price fixed by the Food Control Committee, there was a cessation in the delivery of milk, and upon the advice of the Food Control Commissioner, the Committee decided to undertake the collection and distribution of the milk, and this continued until the end of the year. A dairy was provided for the reception of the milk, and the distribution was as efficiently carried out as the equipment at the disposal of the Committee would permit. No doubt the

municipalisation of the milk supply would be the ideal method from the public health point of view, but this would necessitate the establishment of an up-to-date sterilizing and freezing plant. There is no doubt the old method of distribution was most wasteful of time and labour, and gave the Authority no supervision of the supply to ensure its cleanliness.

**FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS**—The work necessitated by the Factories and Workshops Act has been carried out efficiently by your Inspector, and the requirements of H.M. Inspector have always received attention.

**HOUSING**—There is no doubt that the influx of workers from other parts of the country, anxious to share in the prosperity of the district due to war conditions, gave rise to considerable overcrowding, and as I have previously said, every habitable dwelling was occupied, and no doubt some that under ordinary circumstances would not be considered habitable. It will be remembered that previous to the outbreak of hostilities there were 280 uninhabited houses, and now that there is every prospect of peace being obtained, there is no certainty that many of the dwellings that have become inhabited, in the meantime, may soon be vacated; however this may be, I think the Health Committee acted wisely in deferring a final reply to the enquiry of the Local Government Board upon the provision of new houses until the population of the district becomes stabilized. I do not think it at all probable that there will be any considerable call for the accommodation of added population; but the Council must seriously consider whether schemes of housing will not be necessary to provide *better* houses for the working classes, as it is an undoubted fact that many of the houses now in occupation do not come up to the standard of modern requirements.

**HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL**—This very important branch of sanitary administration has been an increasing difficulty; what with the scarcity of men and horses the work has caused your staff great anxiety, and the cost is an ever-increasing one. Under the circumstances I think it is a matter for congratulation that so few complaints have been received. The figures below will give some idea of the magnitude of the task.

Privy Middens and Ashpits Cleansed	....	....	....	3792
Loads Removed	....	....	....	3276
Sanitary Bins Emptied	..	....	....	23904
Loads of Refuse	....	....	....	1328

The question of providing motor transport for this work has engaged the attention of the Committee, but I doubt very much whether it would not be found that the cost of this was prohibitive.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.—In my Report for the year 1917 I gave the population for the District as 13,360, and this was ascertained by a census instituted by the Council, and for all practical purposes, may be taken as correct. The population is distributed as under :—

Dalton and Newton	....	....	....	....	8930
Lindal and Marton	....	....	....	....	900
Askam and Ireleth	....	....	....	....	3530
					<hr/>
Total	....	....	....	....	13,360
					<hr/>

When the census was taken in 1911, there were 2,483 inhabited and 280 uninhabited houses; at the census of 1917 there were 2,725 inhabited dwellings, and only 23 were found to be unoccupied. The average per house in 1911 was 4.33 persons, and in 1917 it was 4.90 persons.

Of the 23 houses which were found to be unoccupied in 1917, I should say that in the great majority of the cases the cause for this would be the fact that the dwellings were unfit from one cause and another, for habitation, as there was such an unprecedented demand for houses of the cottage class that any dwelling in a fit state to be occupied was very soon taken.

BIRTHS.—During the past year 382 births have been registered, which produces a birth-rate of 28.5 per 1,000. In the year 1917 there were 321 births, the birth-rate then being 24.0 per 1,000.

The births have been distributed as follows :—

	1917.		1918.	
	Births	Birth-rate	Births	Birth-rate
Dalton and Newton....	206	23.0	248	27.7
Lindal and Marton ....	22	24.4	25	27.7
Askam and Ireleth ....	93	26.3	109	30.8
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	321	24.0	382	28.5

There have been 191 male children born and 191 females. There have been 27 illegitimate births—19 males and 8 females.

DEATHS.—During the past twelve months 250 deaths have occurred in your district, which is equal to a death-rate of 18.7 per 1,000, but 4 of the deaths have arisen in non-residents, which have been transferred, and this reduces the deaths of the resident population occurring in the District to 246; but as 37 deaths of residents have arisen outside the District and been transferred, the corrected number of deaths is 283, and the death-rate 21.1 per 1,000.

	1917		1918	
	Deaths	Death-rate	Deaths	Death-rate
Dalton and Newton....	120	13.2	196	21.9
Lindal and Marton ....	10	11.1	20	22.2
Askam and Ireleth ....	48	13.5	67	18.9
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	178	13.3	283	21.1

There have been 156 deaths in males and 127 in females.

INFANTILE DEATHS.—In the year 1918 there were 47 deaths in infants under one year old, which is equal to an infantile death-rate of 123.0 per 1,000 births. In the year 1917 there were 24 deaths at the same age period, equal to an infantile death-rate of 74.7 per 1,000 births. These deaths have been distributed as follows:—

	1917.		1918.	
	Infantile Deaths	Infantile Death-rate	Infantile Deaths	Infantile Death-rate
Dalton and Newton....	20	97.0	32	129.0
Lindal and Marton ....	1	45.4	3	120.0
Askam and Ireleth ....	3	32.2	12	110.0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	24	74.7	47	123.0

There have been four deaths of illegitimate infants.

#### CAUSES OF INFANTILE DEATHS.

	Dalton and Newton	Lindal and Marton	Askam and Ireleth.	Total.
Congenital Defects ....	10	—	1	11
Catarrh ....	1	—	—	1
Premature Birth ....	8	—	7	15
Pneumonia ....	4	—	—	4
Whooping Cough....	2	—	1	3
Convulsions ....	—	1	1	2
Tuberculosis....	—	1	—	1
Diarrhœa ....	2	—	2	4
Bronchitis ....	2	—	—	2
Tubercular Meningitis....	1	—	—	1
Influenza ....	2	1	—	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals ....	32	3	12	47

Last year I expressed my gratification at the decline in the number of infantile deaths, and it is very disappointing, this year, to have to report such a very great increase in the number.

The increase appears to be most marked in the Askam District, and is due in the main to the large number of babies which have been prematurely born, which would appear to suggest that there might be some failure in the health of the mother.

**SENILE DEATHS.**—In persons of 65 years of age and upwards there have been 75 deaths, as compared with 56 in the year 1917.

**PHTHISIS.**—There have been 18 deaths from tubercular disease of the lungs during the year, 10 in Dalton and 8 in Askam. This number is, precisely, the same as in the year 1917.

**CANCER.**—Seventeen deaths have been attributable to malignant disease of various organs; 14 of these have occurred at Dalton and 3 at Askam.

**ZYMOTIC DEATHS.**—The deaths from Zymotic diseases have numbered 16, which is equal to a Zymotic death-rate of 1.19 per 1,000. In the previous year there were 8 deaths from Zymotic diseases, the death rate then being .60 per 1,000.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF ZYMOTIC DEATHS.

	Diarrhoea	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Total	Death Rate
Dalton and Newton....	2	4	5	11	1.23
Lindal and Marton ....	—	—	—	—	—
Askam and Ireleth ....	2	3	—	5	1.41
Totals ....	4	7	5	16	1.19

**NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**—I give below the usual table showing the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year, and I include under this heading cases of Phthisis and Tuberculosis.

	Dalton and Newton	Lindal and Marton	Askam and Ireleth	Totals 1918	Totals 1917
Scarlet Fever ....	—	—	1	1	7
Diphtheria ....	7	1	—	8	18
Puerperal Fever ....	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas....	1	—	2	3	9
Ophthalmia ....	—	—	2	2	1
Typhoid Fever....	—	—	—	—	5
Phthisis ....	14	4	8	26	31
Tuberculosis ....	5	—	1	6	2
Measles ....	6	—	3	9	75
Totals ....	33	5	17	55	149

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified is by far the lowest on record ; of the ordinary Zymotic diseases 23 have been recorded. In the year 1908 there were 17 reports received, but in that year Measles was not a notifiable disease.

**TYPHOID FEVER.**—It will be observed that there has not been a single case of Typhoid Fever, which bears excellent testimony to the sanitary condition of the district.

**DIPHTHERIA.**—Of the 8 cases of this disease reported, 4 arose in Dalton, 1 at Lindal, 2 at Greenhaume, a hamlet about a mile distant from the town, and 1 in an isolated house a couple of miles from the town ; in only 2 of the cases was there any reason to suspect direct infection as the means of its spread, the other cases arising in an entirely sporadic form. Five of the cases were severe, and of the Laryngeal form, and ended fatally, two of them after tracheotomy had been performed.

**INFLUENZA.**—Like many other parts of the country your district suffered very severely from an epidemic of Influenza, which commenced about the third week in October, and attained its greatest severity in November, dying away in December. I am requested by the Local Government Board to give information under the following headings :—

- A. 1. The report should give the deaths from influenza in the district for each week of the year 1918.
2. A table should be prepared giving the age and sex distribution of the deaths from influenza.
3. Information should be given as to the date of the first appearance of the epidemic in the district, and of its cessation.
4. The results of any local pathological examinations able to be obtained, including bacteriological examinations of sputa should be given.
5. If there is any evidence throwing light on the means of introduction of the disease, this should be stated.
6. Any facts would be valuable which bear on—  
 Duration of incubation period ;  
 Duration of infectivity ;  
 Methods of spread ;  
 Evidence of possible protection by a previous attack ;  
 Frequency of occurrence of second attacks in 1918.
7. Any special clinical features of the outbreak should be stated. It will be valuable if a comparison between cases in rural and urban areas can be made.

8. Has there been any special incidence on particular occupations or districts?
- B. 1. Distribution of precautionary advice to the public—  
How effected?
2. Any special measures taken in respect of—  
School closure or exclusion;  
Exclusion from or closure of places of public  
entertainment;  
Exclusion, if any, from occupations.
3. Provision of hospital treatment.
4. Provision at patient's home of medical assistance.  

"	"	nursing	"
"	"	domestic	"
5. Provision of facilities for bacteriological examination  
of material from patients.
6. Prophylaxis by vaccine, if attempted.

Answering these queries seriatim, I find that there was 1 death in the 19th week, 1 in the 23rd, 2 in the 30th, 1 in the 37th, 1 in the 42nd, 9 in the 43rd, 13 in the 44th, 5 in the 45th, 3 in the 46th, 2 in the 47th, 4 in the 48th, and 1 in the 49th weeks.

It will thus be seen that the epidemic was at its height from the third week in October until the end of November, and then died out.

As regards age, the distribution has been as follows :—

Under 1 yr.	1/2	2/5	5/15	15/25	25/45	45/65	65/up.
3	2	6	6	10	16	6	5

There were 27 deaths in males and 27 in females.

As I have previously said the epidemic commenced about the third week in October, and reached its height in November. No pathological or bacteriological investigations have been made, in fact the medical practitioners were unable to complete their ordinary work without going into scientific details.

I can obtain no evidence as to the means by which the disease was first introduced into the district.

The duration of incubation would appear to be from 12 to 48 hours, but in some instances victims appear to have been attacked quite suddenly without any premonitory symptoms.

Infectivity seems to last as long as there are any febrile symptoms, but evidence on this point is not reliable.

The method of spread would seem to be somewhat of a mystery. People living in remote country houses, who have not

been away from home, and who have not received visitors, have been liable to attack ; but generally speaking the means of transmission would seem to be from person to person, either from the discharge from the nose and throat, or from the breath.

I think the evidence would go to show that a previous attack does to some extent protect from subsequent infection, but the immunity thus obtained is not so complete as in the ordinary Zymotic Diseases.

No doubt second attacks occurred in 1918. The usual symptoms of Influenza were present, but it was not uncommon to have cases complicated, the usual being Epistaxis, Menorrhagia and Hæmoptysis, but by far the most common complication was pneumonia, and this accounted for a great majority of the deaths. I found no difference between cases arising in Urban and those arising in Rural Districts.

There was no special incidence on particular occupations.

Precautionary advice was distributed throughout the district by means of handbills, and almost the whole of the Schools in the area were closed, and children were excluded from places of public entertainment ; no exclusion from occupations was considered necessary.

No hospital treatment or provision for medical attendance or nursing was made.

Every facility would have been afforded for bacteriological examination, but I fear the medical practitioners had no time to spare for this, as their time was more than fully occupied in giving the ordinary attendance to their patients ; neither was prophylactic treatment by vaccine tried to such an extent as to extract any data as to the results thereof.

In conclusion, I beg to thank my colleagues, to whom I am greatly indebted for assistance and co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

**G. H. PATTERSON,**

L.R.C.P. LOND., M.R.C.S.ENG., D.P.H.LOND.

Medical Officer of Health.

March 19th, 1919.

# Sanitary Inspector's Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1918.

---

**To the Chairman and Members of the Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

It is again my duty to present to you my Annual Report, which deals with the health and sanitary condition of the district which is under my supervision.

The district has been under constant supervision, and a great deal of work has been done, much more than has been brought under the notice of the Health Committee at their ordinary monthly meetings, although this has fallen far short of that which would be done in normal times ; and I regret that war conditions, in the shape of scarcity of labour and the enhanced price of materials, have rendered much of the work fruitless, as the Council have reluctantly declined to enforce Orders except in extreme cases.

There can be no doubt but that many of the houses in the district are, in their present condition, quite unfit for habitation, and many more will require a considerable expenditure of labour and money to bring them up to modern requirements.

One of the most serious nuisances with which I have had to deal has been dampness of walls and foundations, and this has been exaggerated by the unprecedentedly heavy rainfall which has been experienced during the past year. In July of last year, what amounted to a house-to-house inspection of the district was made ; this was necessitated in order that information could be given to the County Medical Officer with regard to the type of sanitary accommodation most in vogue in the district. This inspection was a means of obtaining valuable information of the general conditions prevailing, and should be of great use in the future. Special inspections were always made upon information received from the Medical Officer of Health of the outbreak of any of the ordinary Zymotic diseases, and on the completion of convalescence or removal of the sufferer to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, the infected premises have been carefully cleansed and disinfected, and every effort made to prevent the spread of infection.

A great many complaints were made during the year as to nuisances arising from foul emanations in dwelling houses, and this was found, on investigation, to be due to sulphuretted hydrogen, and arose from the incomplete purification of the coal gas.

### PRIVY CONVERSION.

Three privies, only, have been converted into W.C.'s during the year. This number falls considerably below the average, and does not mark such progress in this very important department of sanitary administration as one would like to see, but it has to be remembered that the contracts for doing this class of work have increased by at least 50%, and the necessary material has been almost unobtainable; the Health Committee, therefore, have been compelled to postpone many cases until times become more normal.

### SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Most of the Slaughter Houses are visited at least twice every week. No improvements, structurally, have been carried out. The Beckside Road Slaughter House has again been a source of complaint during the summer, to persons resident in the immediate vicinity, the smells emanating chiefly from the business of gut-scraping. This class of trade has now been discontinued. These premises, I understand, are no longer to be used for slaughtering, the owner requiring them for other trade purposes.

### COWSHEDS.

There are 59 registered cow-keepers in the district, necessitating 213 inspections.

No structural improvements of any kind have been carried out during the year.

As previously reported, the conditions of many of the older type of shed are very unsatisfactory, and greatly in need of alteration, but I fear that nothing short of re-construction would be really effective, and in many instances it would be quite as cheap to erect new Cowsheds.

The conditions under which milk is produced is undoubtedly the chief cause responsible for the agitation in regard to clean milk all over the country. Any new legislation which may be contemplated will be useless unless it commences with the cattle and sheds in which milk is produced.

Many of the Cow-keepers might, with advantage to the health of the cattle and also to secure a more satisfactory milk supply, give more attention to cleanliness.

### FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT

Bakehouses are practically the only classes of workshops in the district requiring special attention, and the whole of these have been inspected four times each during the year.

The limewashing and general cleaning has been carried out in all cases about the time required.

Only one notice has been received from H.M. Inspector, complaining of the absence of any type of sanitary convenience for the workmen employed at the Hæmatite Concentrates, Ltd., Park.

There are 16 persons registered who bake and retail bread.

#### REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1918.

Complaints received	87
Orders issued for sanitary improvements	137
Plans approved	3
Houses disinfected after infectious diseases	40
Cases of bedding and clothing destroyed	6
Sewage tanks cleansed	109
Water-closets substituted for privies	3
Ashpits or middensteads emptied	3792
Removal of accumulations of refuse or other offensive matters	3
Removal of animals improperly kept	4
Drains trapped, ventilated, or repaired	27
Seizures of unwholesome food	758 lbs.
Slaughter-house inspections	239
Slaughter-houses registered	9
Bakehouses inspected	64
Inspections under Factory and Workshops Act	84
Number of Dairies and Cowsheds on Register	59
Dairies and Cowsheds inspections	213

#### HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, &C., ACT, 1909.

Number of Inspections	41
-----------------------	----

#### HOUSING WORKS OUTSTANDING, DEC., 1916.

##### NOTICES ISSUED IN 1915.

Date of Notice.	Premises.	Nature of Defects.
July, 1915.	Skelgate—24, 26, 28, 30 32, 34	Spouting, ashpit walls, defective roofs, fixed windows, danger- ous stairways. Nothing done.
Sept., 1915.	Beach St., Askam—91, 93, 95, 97	Insanitary and defective privies, open ashpits retaining liquid filth, &c.

## NOTICES ISSUED DURING 1914.

Oct., 1915.	40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52 54, 56, 58, Sharp St., Askam	Insanitary privies and ashpits retaining liquid filth, uncovered; defective yard surfaces, windows, dangerous stairways, want of handrails, defective spouting and roof. Nothing done.
----------------	---	--

## NOTICES ISSUED IN 1915.

Jan., 1915.	20, 22, and 30, Prince St., Dalton	Defective windows, spouting, roofs of rooms over scullery and closets, waste pipes.
Feb., 1915.	20, 22, 24, 26, 28, Syd- ney Terrace, Dalton	Insanitary privies and ashpits, dangerous stairways, absence of handrails.
April, 1915.	8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, Newton	A most abominable condition of closet accommodation—two broken down insanitary privies for six tenants; absence of sinks, no handrails to stairs, defective yard surface and floor of washhouse. Nothing done.

## NOTICES ISSUED DURING 1915.

Date of Notice.	Street.	Nature of Defects.
April, 1915.	1, 3, 9, James Terrace, Dalton	Insanitary privies and ashpits, defective floors of bedrooms and window cords, &c.
April, 1915.	37, Steel St., Askam	Defective and insanitary closet accommodation, spouting, yard surface, defective roof at rear, window cords, &c. No handrail on stairs.
July, 1915.	5, Melton Terrace, Dal- ton	Defective main roof of house, windows, washing boiler, walls and doors of piggeries, closet seat.
July, 1915.	18, 20 and 32, Victoria St., Askam	Defective yard surfaces, spout- ing and gutters, &c.

Sept., 1915.	70, 72, 74, 76, 78, Mount Pleasant, Dalton	Insufficient closet accommodation—two privies for five tenants, cleansing to be done by carrying through passage ; defective drainage, no sinks, defective yard surface (common), spouting, insufficient ventilation, fixed windows in bedrooms at rear, absence of handrails, &c.
-----------------	--	--

NOTICE ISSUED IN 1915 TO CARRY OUT WORKS REQUIRED BY  
HOUSING ACTS.

Oct., 1915.	11 and 13, King St., Dalton	Defective roof of scullery, yard surface, spouting, absence of handrails, &c.
Nov., 1915.	47 and 48, Marton	Insufficient closet accommodation, privies foul and insanitary ; No. 47 house back to earth, gable and side, evidence of dampness ; no sinks or washing copper ; defective windows.
Nov., 1915.	Tarn Flat, Marton	Defective closet accommodation drainage, yard surface, roof of washhouse and firegrates.
Nov., 1915.	95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, King St., Dalton	Insanitary privies, no handrails to stairs, defective roofs, spouting, division walls.

---

In conclusion I have to thank the Chairman and members of the Sanitary Committee for the kindness shown in the discharge of my duties, and also the Medical Officer, Surveyor and Clerk for their willingness to tender advice at any time.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

**WILLIAM E. CAINE.**

February, 1919.